Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of accessing content of a message, comprising:

defining a context object for inclusion in a message, the context object being an abstraction of content of the message, the context object defined in a repository, the context object including a name and a namespace, the name of the context object used to access payload information;

assigning the context object to one or more interfaces through which the message is to be communicated, the context object used to select a send process for the message sent to at least one of the assigned interfaces, the context object providing context information to enable send steps that send messages of the same interface from different places in a process to be distinguished; and

accessing, via the context object, the content of the message at one of the interfaces.

2.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of accessing content of a message, comprising:

defining a context object for inclusion in a message, the context object being an abstraction of content of the message, the context object, stored in a repository, including criteria to enable reuse across one or more interfaces, the context object providing the criteria for determining one or more send steps at one of the interfaces the context object including a name

and a namespace, <u>the context object being used to differentiate send steps that a part of the same process that are being sent on the same interface,</u> the name of the context object used to access payload information;

assigning, to the one or more interfaces through which the message is to be communicated, the context object describing the message, the context object used to select a send process for the message sent to at least one of the assigned interfaces; and

accessing, via the context object, the content of the message at one of the interfaces, wherein accessing the content includes accessing application data associated with the context object.

3.   (Canceled).

4.   (Original)   A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising storing the context object in a repository accessible by a runtime engine to communicate with the one or more interfaces.

5.   (Original)   A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein storing the context object includes storing a name and a namespace associated with the context object.

6.   (Currently Amended) A system for exchanging messages, comprising:

a computer; and

a memory including a computer program code configured to provide:

one or more message interfaces, through which messages are received from a sender or sent to one or more receivers; and

a repository storing a plurality of context objects for inclusion in a message, wherein each context object is an abstraction of content of the message, and wherein each context object is assigned to at least one of the one or more interfaces to facilitate access to content of the messages communicated through the message interfaces, each context object is further used to select a send process for the messages sent through the message interfaces, the context object including a name and a namespace, the name of the context object used to access payload information, the context object providing context information to enable send steps that send messages of the same interface from different places in a process to be distinguished.

7.   (Canceled).

8.   (Original)   A system in accordance with claim 6, further comprising a directory that stores a plurality of routing rules for routing messages between a sender and one or more receivers through one or more message interfaces.

9.   (Original)   A system in accordance with claim 8, wherein the context objects are assigned to the one or more interfaces according to one or more business processes stored in the directory.

10.   (Original)   A system in accordance with claim 9, further comprising an integration server for executing the one or more business processes.

11.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product containing instructions to configure a computer to perform a method, the method comprising:

defining a context object for inclusion in a message, the context object being an abstraction of content of the message, the context object stored in a repository, the context object the including a name and a namespace, the name of the context object used to access payload information;

assigning the context object to one or more interfaces through which the message is to be communicated; and

accessing, via the context object, the content of the message at one of the interfaces, the context object used to select a send process for the message sent to at least one of the assigned interfaces, the context object providing context information to enable send steps that send messages of the same interface from different places in a process to be distinguished.

12.   (Previously Presented)   A computer program product in accordance with claim 11, wherein accessing the content includes accessing application data associated with the context object.

13.   (Canceled).

14.   (Original)   A computer program product in accordance with claim 11, further comprising storing the context object in a repository accessible by a runtime engine to communicate with the one or more interfaces.

15.   (Canceled).